

Testimony concerning HB 5844
Environment Committee
Public hearing 3/15/2013

Good Morning,

I would like to thank the Environment Committee for the opportunity to express my support of HB No. 5844 An Act Concerning the Overnight Tethering of Dogs Outside and the Tethering of Dogs Outdoors Under Certain Weather Conditions.

I am a registered voter in Groton, CT and I am a member of the Democratic Party.

I urge you to support this bill because the practice of chaining a dog outside for long periods of time and during harsh weather conditions is both inhumane and a threat to the safety of the confined dog, other animals and local citizens.

Dogs are naturally social beings that thrive on interaction with human beings and other animals. A dog kept chained in one spot for hours, days, months or even years suffers immense psychological damage. An otherwise friendly and docile dog, when kept continuously chained, becomes neurotic, unhappy, anxious and often aggressive. In many cases, the necks of chained dogs become raw and covered with sores, the result of improperly fitted collars and the dogs' constant yanking and straining to escape confinement. Dogs have even been found with collars embedded in their necks, the result of years of neglect at the end of a chain. In one case, a veterinarian had to euthanize a dog whose collar, an electrical cord, was so embedded in the animal's neck that it was difficult to see the plug.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify and I do hope you will strongly support this important piece of legislation.

Thank you,

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